NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

This action is in response to the amendment filed December 12, 2007. Claims 17, 18 have been canceled. Claims 1-11, 13, 16, 19-22 have been amended. Claims 23-27 are newly submitted. All of the amendments have been thoroughly reviewed and entered. The previous rejections in the Office action mailed on 9/12/07 are withdrawn in view of the amendments and the following Examiner's Amendment.

Further note, the restriction between the elected group I (the product claims), and groups II, IV, V (the withdrawn process claims), is hereby withdrawn in view of the rejoinder.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Jie Zhou on March 27, 2008.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a first nucleotide sequence encoding human CD20 and a second nucleotide sequence encoding a subunit of a heterologous FcγIII receptor (CD16), wherein the first nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a ~~an endogenous~~ CD20 promoter, and wherein the second nucleotide

sequence is operably linked to a ~~an endogenous~~ FcγIII receptor promoter.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein said ~~endogenous~~ CD20 promoter is a human ~~endogenous~~ promoter.

In claim 3, a punctuation mark -- , -- was inserted after "claim 2".

In claim 4, a punctuation mark -- , -- was inserted after "claim 3".

Claim 5 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 2, wherein said ~~endogenous~~ FcγIII receptor promoter is a human ~~endogenous~~ promoter.

In claim 6, a punctuation mark -- , -- was inserted after "claim 1".

In claim 7, a punctuation mark -- , -- was inserted after "claim 6".

In claim 8, a punctuation mark -- , -- was inserted after "claim 1".

Claim 9 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein the genome of said mouse further comprises a disruption in an endogenous gene encoding a subunit of a receptor substantially homologous to the heterologous FcγIII receptor (CD16).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 9, wherein the endogenous gene encodes a mouse ~~murine~~ CD16 alpha chain.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of identifying an agent capable of inducing an Fc-mediated effector cell response against B lymphocytes expressing human CD20, said method comprising:

a) measuring the level of B lymphocytes expressing human CD20 in a first transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding human CD20 and operably linked to a CD20 promoter;

b) administering said agent to the first transgenic mouse;

c) measuring the level of B lymphocytes expressing human CD20 in the first transgenic mouse;

d) determining the percent reduction in the level of B lymphocytes between step (a) and step (c);

e) measuring the level of B lymphocytes expressing human CD20 in a second transgenic mouse of claim 1;

f) administering said agent to the second transgenic mouse of claim 1;

g) measuring the level of B lymphocytes expressing human CD20 in the second transgenic mouse; and

h) determining the percent reduction in the level of B lymphocytes between step (c) and step (g);

wherein if the percent reduction determined in step (h) is greater than the percent reduction determined in step (d), the agent is identified as capable of inducing an Fc-mediated effector cell response against B lymphocytes expressing human CD20.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein the first nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a mouse ~~murine endogenous~~ promoter.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 1, wherein the second nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a mouse ~~murine endogenous~~ promoter.

In claim 25, a punctuation mark -- , -- was inserted after "claim 16".

Claim 26 (currently amended): The cell or tissue of claim 16, wherein the cell or tissue expresses a subunit of human FcγIII receptor (CD16).

Claim 27 (currently amended): The transgenic mouse of claim 6, ~~9~~ wherein the human CD20 is expressed on the surface of B lymphocytes and human CD16 alpha chain subtype A is expressed on the surface of leucocytes in the transgenic mouse.

Conclusion

Claims 1-11, 13, 14, 16, 19-27 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Q. Janice Li** whose telephone number is 571-272-0730. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, except every other Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Joseph Woitach** can be reached on 571-272-0739. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are **571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

/Q. JANICE LI/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1633

Q. Janice Li, M.D.
Primary Examiner
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QJL
April 2, 2008